(c) A quantity of 351.51 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was surplus in Central Pool as on 1.4.2002 against the prescribed buffer stocking norms on foodgrains of the corresponding period. As per prescribed norms the prophylactic and curative treatments given to the stock during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (February, 2002) are indicated below:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

	2000-01	2001-02
Prophylactic	3076.05	2328.63
Curative	594.87	630.83

Import of Edible Oil

†2671. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal of heavy investment on the import of edible oils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the domestic production of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per EXIM Policy import of edible oils except coconut oil is under Open General Licence (OGL).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources during the year 2000-2001 has been 55.04 lakhs MT.

Storage in open godowns

†2672. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has stored wheat, rice and paddy in open godowns;

(b) if so, the storage capacity of open godowns from April, 1999 to March, 2002; and

(c) the average quantity of foodgrains stored therein

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Food Corporation of India stores only Wheat and Paddy in Cover and Plinth (CAP) open storage godowns in unavoidable circumstances.

(b) The Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage capacity available, with Food Corporation of India from April. 1999 to March, 2002 is as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

As on	CAP (OPEN) Storage Capacity (Owned & Hired)
01.04.1999	41.85
01.04.2000	45.54
01.04.2001	67.54
01.03.2002	82.96

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.